MAKAZAN, THE CAPITAL CITY OF AQIRIA.
THE ALAMBIA MARKET.
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK! PROTECT THE SENATOR!
WAIT--
SHKAAAANG!
THAT'S ARES! THE AVENGER!
AND HE'S FIGHTING INSURGENTS!
HE'S HERE TO HELP US!
YESSS... HELP YOU...

...HELP YOU DIE!
AT THIS RATE, EVERY HUMAN BEING IN THE CITY WILL BE DEAD OR INFECTED WITH THE ULTIMO CONTAGION WITHIN THIRTY-ONE MINUTES...

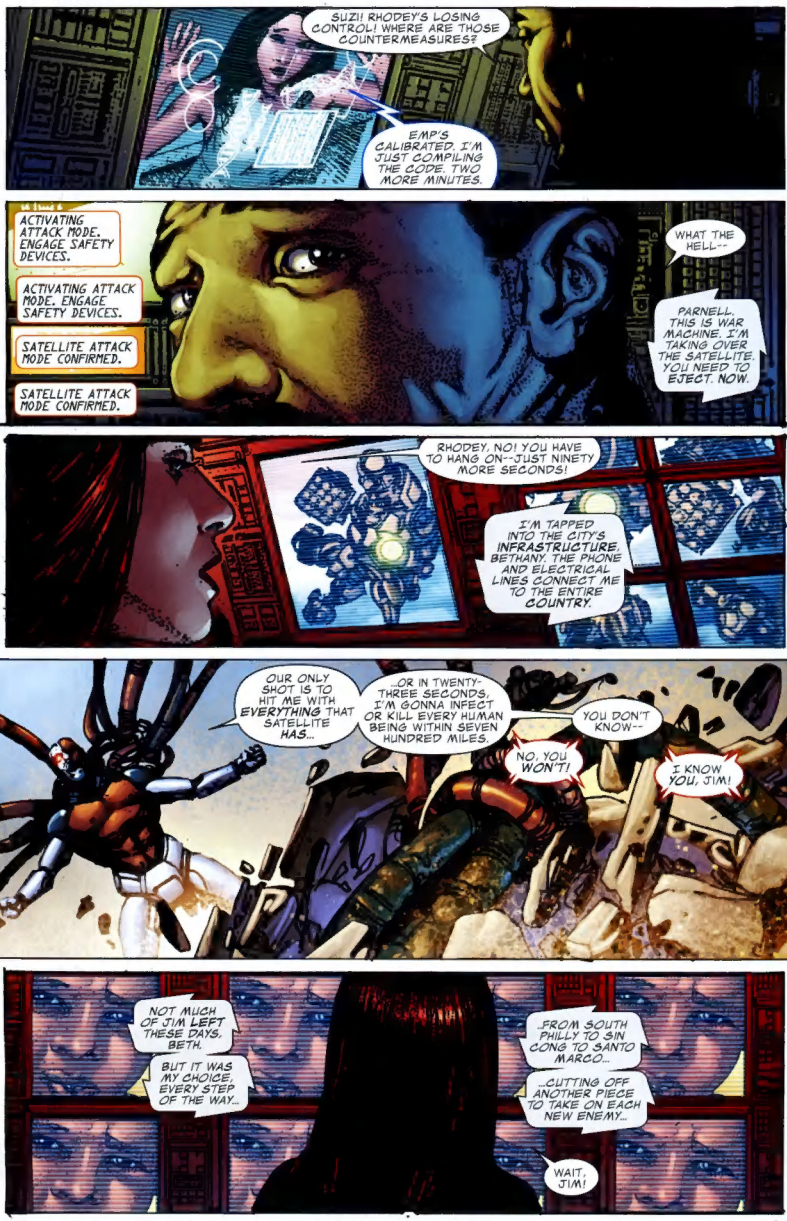
...BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THE CONTAGION RUNS ON GODE... WHICH MEANS I CAN KILL IT.
I JUST NEED A DELIVERY METHOD.
HONG KONG. APARTMENT OF SUZI ENDO, AKA CYBERMANCER.
COMING RIGHT UP.
PARNELL? WHAT DO YOU HAVE?
THERE'S AN E.M.P. GENERATOR ON THIS TUB. RECALIBRATE IT AND YOU GET THE MOST POWERFUL ELECTROMAGNETIC TRANSMITTER IN THE HEMISPHERE.
THE WAR MACHINE SATELLITE.
BUT THE SATELLITE ORBITS AT 800 KILOMETERS. YOU'RE TOO FAR UP.
NOT ANY LONGER.
JUST TELL RHODEY...
...HE WAS SUPPOSED TO SAVE MY WIFE. NOT TURN HER INTO A MONSTER.
AND IF THIS DOESN'T WORK...
I'M GONNA KILL HIM.
COLORADO. WAR MACHINE R&D FACILITY.
HE'S PRETTY MUCH TAKING CARE OF THAT HIMSELF.
JAKE, THIS IS BETHANY. RHODEY'S FLATLINING-- YOU GET HIM IN THAT EVAC SHUTTLE AND ON STASIS NOW!
LITTLE TOO LATE FOR THAT, MS. CABE.

THERE'S NO EVAC SHUTTLE LEFT. I'M RIDING THE ENGINE AND FUEL TANKS...
...AND MR. RHODES INCORPORATED THE REST OF IT INTO HIS OWN ARMOR.
WHAT THE HELL...
NO CHOICE, BETHANY.
JIM, YOU'VE TAKEN TOO MUCH DAMAGE! YOU'VE ALREADY LOST LIVER AND KIDNEY FUNCTION!
SUZI, HOW LONG 'TIL YOU CAN DELIVER YOUR COUNTER-MEASURES?
NINE MINUTES.
AND HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL ARES AND HIS PALS HAVE KILLED BY THEN?
ELEVEN THOUSAND.
AH, HELL.
HOW LONG DO I HAVE, BETHANY?
YOUR HEART'S GOING TO FAIL IN FOUR MINUTES. BRAIN DEATH IN FIVE.
ALL RIGHT THEN. ENOUGH SMALL TALK.
SUZI, STAND BY FOR INSTRUCTIONS.
SWEET.
JAKE, LET'S DANCE.

SHAKOOOM!
WE'RE ON YOUR SIDE, YOU DOPES!
NOW GET DOWN!
BLAM BLAM BLAM!
BRAKOOM! --KOOOM! --KOOOOM!
SEE? INSTANT FIREWALL!
THAT'LL HOLD 'EM FOR A MINUTE--
FWOOSH
--NOW LET'S GET THESE CIVILIANS OUT OF HERE BEFORE--
SHAKOOOM!

KRAKOOOM!
JIM! WHAT THE HELL KIND OF PLAN IS THIS?
I'M DRAWING THEIR FIRE, BETH. AS LONG AS THEY'RE HAMMERING ME, THEY'RE NOT INFECTING CIVILIANS.
...BUT THAT'S JUST STEP ONE.
SUZI, I NEED YOU TO HACK MY FIRMWARE. OPEN SOCKETS 831 TO 843.
JIM, NO, THAT'S CRAZY.
IT'S THE ONLY WAY.
NO--
COME ON, SUZI! DO IT NOW, BEFORE IT'S--
--TOO LATE.
GRRRRAAAAA!

SOUTH PHILLY,
A LONG TIME AGO.
TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.
HA.
SO, WHO HIT YOU?
WHAT? NO ONE.
WE JUST KISSED. THAT MEANS YOU CAN'T LIE TO ME.
WHO HIT YOU?


SUZI! RHODEY'S LOSING CONTROL! WHERE ARE THOSE COUNTERMEASURES?
EMP'S CALIBRATED. I'M JUST COMPILING THE CODE. TWO MORE MINUTES.
ACTIVATING ATTACK MODE. ENGAGE SAFETY DEVICES.
ACTIVATING ATTACK MODE. ENGAGE SAFETY DEVICES.
SATELLITE ATTACK MODE CONFIRMED.
SATELLITE ATTACK MODE CONFIRMED.
WHAT THE HELL--
PARNELL, THIS IS WAR MACHINE. I'M TAKING OVER THE SATELLITE. YOU NEED TO EJECT. NOW.
RHODEY, NO! YOU HAVE TO HANG ON--JUST NINETY MORE SECONDS!
I'M TAPPED INTO THE CITY'S INFRASTRUCTURE, BETHANY. THE PHONE AND ELECTRICAL LINES CONNECT ME TO THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.
OUR ONLY SHOT IS TO HIT ME WITH EVERYTHING THAT SATELLITE HAS...
...OR IN TWENTY-THREE SECONDS, I'M GONNA INFECT OR KILL EVERY HUMAN BEING WITHIN SEVEN HUNDRED MILES.
YOU DON'T KNOW--
NO, YOU WON'T!
I KNOW YOU, JIM!
NOT MUCH OF JIM LEFT THESE DAYS, BETH.
BUT IT WAS MY CHOICE, EVERY STEP OF THE WAY..
...FROM SOUTH PHILLY TO SIN CONG TO SANTO MARCO...
...CUTTING OFF ANOTHER PIECE TO TAKE ON EACH NEW ENEMY...
WAIT, JIM!

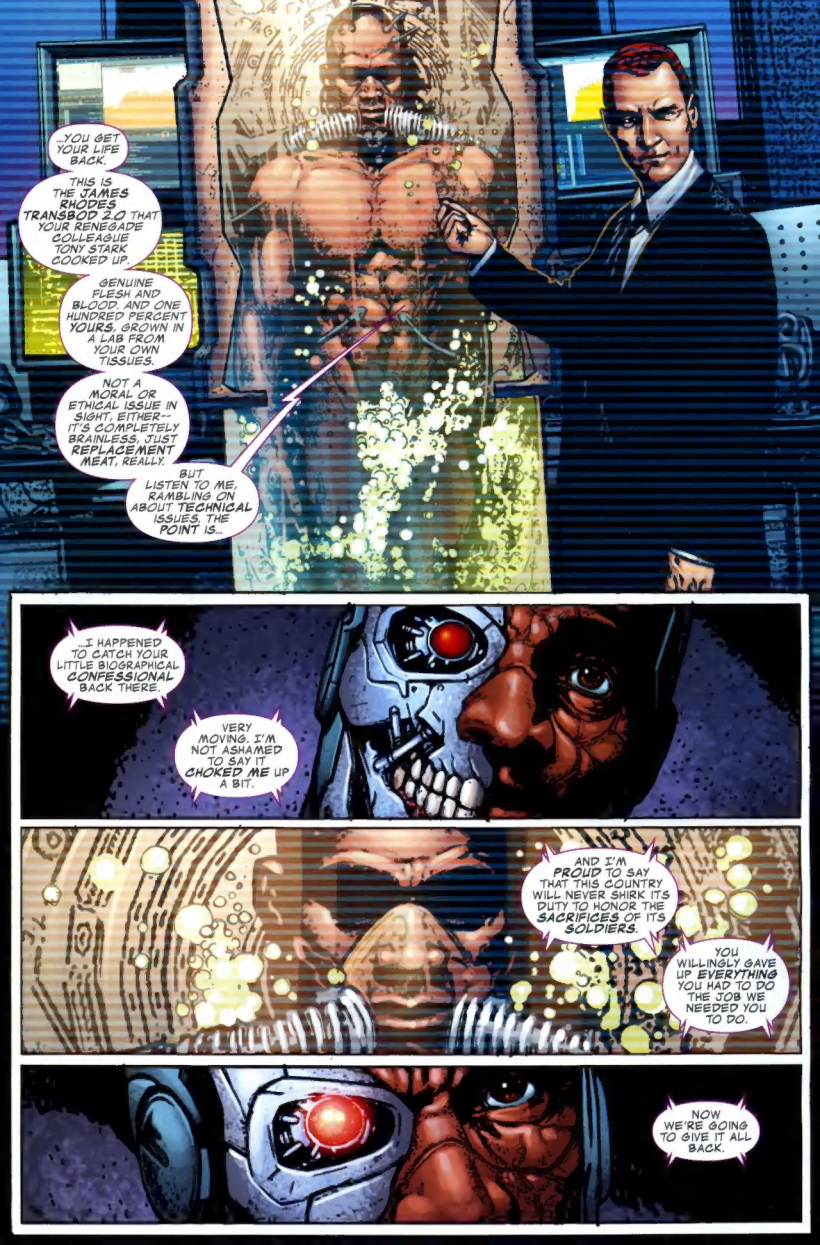
SHADOWMEN

BRAVO TANGO ONE, REPORT?
THE DEBRIS BURIED HIM, COMMANDER. THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD HAVE--
WAR MACHINE!
HOLD ON!
I'M COMING FOR YOU--
--MY CHAMPION.

THANKS...
...BUT I'M NOT YOUR CHAMPION.
SO YOU SAY.
SERIOUSLY.
HA.
COUNTERMEASURE: SUCCESSFUL.
ULTIMO VIRUS: DISABLED.
IS HE OKAY?
DO I [redacted]ING LOOK OKAY?
CRACKED A FIBULA. HE'S HOPPED UP ON PAINKILLERS RIGHT NOW. IGNORE HIM.
GLENDA, ARE YOU OKAY?
I WAS BEATEN. RAPED.
I KILLED A MAN IN COLD BLOOD.
AND I ALMOST LOST THE TWO MEN THAT I...THAT I MOST...
SO. NO.
NO, I'M NOT OKAY.
BUT WE'RE ALIVE. AND SO ARE ABOUT A MILLION OTHER PEOPLE...
...THANKS TO YOU.
WAIT. TWO MEN?
OH, BABY.

WHO IS HE?
AN OLD FRIEND. LIKE A BROTHER.
THE GODDESS WHO SHARES MY BED IS MARRIED TO MY BROTHER.
I NEVER LET IT STOP ME.
SO, "GOD OF MACHINES," EH?
NO--
ENOUGH. YOU SERVED ME WELL TODAY, CHAMPION.
FOR THE LAST TIME, I'M NOT--
LOOK AROUND AT THE TERROR IN THEIR EYES.
YOU TAUGHT THESE CURSED MORTALS TO DREAD THE STRIFE IN WHICH THEY REVEL.
NOW, 'TIL I CALL ON YOU AGAIN...
THUNK
...GO IN PEACE...
...MY CHAMPION.

I WANT THEM LOCKED UP. DO YOU HEAR ME? EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM!
IF IT WERE UP TO ME, SIR, I'D PERSONALLY HELP YOU THROW AWAY THE KEY...
...BUT DIRECTOR OSBORN WANTS TO TAKE CARE OF THIS HIS WAY.
NICELY DONE, EVERYBODY.
WE'VE KNOWN FOR SOME TIME THAT EAGLESTAR HAD ACQUIRED SAMPLES OF ULTIMO TECHNOLOGY.
BUT FOR VARIOUS POLITICAL AND LEGAL REASONS, NEITHER I NOR THE UNITED STATES COULD TAKE THEM DOWN DIRECTLY.
SO THOUGH IT CAN'T EVER BE OFFICIALLY ACKNOWLEDGED, YOU'VE DONE YOUR COUNTRY QUITE A SERVICE.
AND NOW IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO GET WHAT YOU DESERVE.
DR. SANDOVAL, YOU CAN TESTIFY BEFORE CONGRESS ABOUT THE MILITARY CONTRACTOR LOOPHOLES THAT ALLOWED EAGLESTAR CEO DAVIS HARMON TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER.
JACOBS, CABE, AND ENDO, YOU GET PARDONS FOR WORKING IN WAR MACHINE'S ILLEGAL FACILITIES WITH UNAUTHORIZED TECHNOLOGY.
AND LIEUTENANT OH, YOU GET THAT MINT-IN-BOX 1976 BICENTENNIAL EDITION CAPTAIN AMERICA ACTION FIGURE YOU'VE BEEN HUNTING FOR SINCE YOU WERE SIX YEARS OLD.
WHAT?
CAP IS AWESOME.
AND MR. RHODES...


...YOU GET YOUR LIFE BACK.
THIS IS THE JAMES RHODES TRANSBOD 2.0 THAT YOUR RENEGADE COLLEAGUE TONY STARK COOKED UP.
GENUINE FLESH AND BLOOD, AND ONE HUNDRED PERCENT YOURS, GROWN IN A LAB FROM YOUR OWN TISSUES.
NOT A MORAL OR ETHICAL ISSUE IN SIGHT, EITHER-- IT'S COMPLETELY BRAINLESS, JUST REPLACEMENT MEAT, REALLY.
BUT LISTEN TO ME, RAMBLING ON ABOUT TECHNICAL ISSUES. THE POINT IS...
I HAPPENED TO CATCH YOUR LITTLE BIOGRAPHICAL CONFESSIONAL BACK THERE.
VERY MOVING. I'M NOT ASHAMED TO SAY IT CHOKED ME UP A BIT.
AND I'M PROUD TO SAY THAT THIS COUNTRY WILL NEVER SHIRK ITS DUTY TO HONOR THE SACRIFICES OF ITS SOLDIERS.
YOU WILLINGLY GAVE UP EVERYTHING YOU HAD TO DO THE JOB WE NEEDED YOU TO DO.
NOW WE'RE GOING TO GIVE IT ALL BACK.